



SFS
SERBIAN
FOREGUT SOCIETY



University Hospital for Digestive Surgery,
University Clinical Center of Serbia
Department of Surgery,
School of Medicine, University of Belgrade

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE
EUROPEAN FOREGUT SOCIETY



2nd BELGRADE POSTGRADUATE COURSE
**CURRENT INTERVENTIONAL MANAGEMENT
OF GASTROESOPHAGEAL REFLUX DISEASE**

Friday, May 16th, 2025.

University Hospital for Digestive Surgery, UCCS
Belgrade, Serbia



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European Foregut Society (EFS) provides specialized platform for the thoughtful diagnostics and treatment of benign foregut diseases. Today, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) represents an important clinical challenge starting from proper diagnosis to treatment strategies. As a chronic endemic progressive disease, GERD has a huge negative impact on health-related quality of life, and may lead to Barrett's esophagus and adenocarcinoma. GERD is complex and heterogeneous disease requiring a patient-centered and multidisciplinary approach, with more than 1/3 of patients being partial responders or non-responders to proton-pump inhibitors, with a growing concern regarding the safety of long-term pharmacological therapy. Systematic assessment of symptoms, anatomy, physiology, histopathology and burden of reflux, are mandatory to plainly identify patients with progressive disease who may benefit from early interventional management.

Interventional GERD therapy can be performed either through minimally invasive surgery or flexible endoscopy. Both methods have the potential to reinforce the lower esophageal sphincter and the gastroesophageal flap valve in order to protect the esophageal mucosa from the reflux of both acid and alkaline gastric contents. However, as an important integral part of the antireflux barrier, a crural repair is feasible only through a laparoscopic approach. The laparoscopic surgical repair is the current standard of care, while the transoral endoscopic approach represents a novel antireflux technique in Europe, with a great potential to become the method of choice in the future. Also we have to bear in mind that all interventional antireflux procedures should be performed in high-volume centers that provide comprehensive diagnosis and a spectrum of techniques tailored to the individual patient.

EFS 2nd Belgrade postgraduate course, this time entitled Current interventional management of gastroesophageal reflux disease, is designed as a clinical immersion course exploring the latest trends, innovations and best practices combining live surgery in the field of interventional GERD treatment. The course is intended as an interactive discussions with the participants interested to get best contemporary practical and theoretical overview of endoscopic and surgical antireflux techniques. The goal of this EFS symposia is to reunite renowned European experts in foregut surgery, gastroenterology and endoscopy, in order to create a multidisciplinary board that discusses and reviews the most appropriate current antireflux interventional techniques.

Course directors

Prof. Aleksandar Simić, University Hospital for Digestive Surgery, Belgrade, Serbia

Prof. Muntzer Mughal, Cleveland Clinic London, London, UK

Prof. Nadey Hakim, Cleveland Clinic London, London, UK



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Main Hall of the University Hospital for Digestive Surgery
University Clinical Centre of Serbia
Koste Todorovića St 6, Belgrade, Serbia

Course directors:

Professor Aleksandar Simić
University Hospital for Digestive Surgery, Belgrade, Serbia

Professor Muntzer Mughal
Cleveland Clinic London, London, UK

Professor Nadey Hakim
Cleveland Clinic London, London, UK

Thursday, May 15th, 2025

EFS Pre-Course Lectures

- 11.00 - 11.30** **Reconstructive Surgery of the Esophagus**
Professor Muntzer Mughal, *Cleveland Clinic London, London, UK*
- 11.30 - 12.00** **Reconstructive Surgery of the Esophagus - Experience of the Department
for Foregut Surgery, UHDS**
Professor Predrag Sabljak, Associate Professor Dejan Veličković
University Hospital for Digestive Surgery, Belgrade, Serbia



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09.00 - 09.10

Introduction

09.10 - 09.30

Endoscopic assessment of the esophagogastric junction

Dr. Rocio Temino Lopez-Jurado, Teknon Medical Center, Barcelona, Spain

Live cTIF procedure

11.00 - 11.20

Laparoscopic Management of GERD

Professor Sebastian Schoppmann, Vienna General Hospital, Vienna, Austria

11.20 - 11.40

Endoscopic Management of GERD - Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication (TIF)

Professor Rehan Haidry, Cleveland Clinic London, London, UK

Live cTIF procedure

13.00 - 13.20

Concomitant hiatal hernia repair and TIF (cTIF)

Associate Professor Ognjan Skrobić, University Hospital for Digestive Surgery, Belgrade, Serbia

13.20 - 13.40

Failed Antireflux Surgery

Professor Muntzer Mughal, Cleveland Clinic London, London, UK

13.40 - 14.00

Discussion & Closing words



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Professor Muntzer Mughal qualified from the University of Manchester in 1977 and completed his surgical training in the North West of England. In 1991 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Manchester, developing a practice in esophagogastric surgery. He was appointed consultant surgeon at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals FT in 1991 before being invited to be the Head of Upper GI Services at University College London Hospitals in 2010. Over the last 10 years, Professor Mughal has increasingly specialized in complex esophagogastric surgery dealing with complications and reoperations for failed antireflux surgery. He has particular expertise in esophageal reconstruction and the treatment of tracheoesophageal fistula. He has also been involved in improving outcomes for esophagogastric cancer, leading on reconfiguration of esophagogastric cancer surgery in the North West of England and London. From 2018 to 2020 he served as the Chief Medical officer for the North Central and North East London Cancer Alliance. He was a founding member of NICE, and has held various roles and positions at a national level including the SAC in General Surgery, regional representative for the Association of Upper GI Surgeons, Regional Adviser for the Royal College of Surgeons. He has served on the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Intercollegiate Speciality Board in General Surgery. At present he is a head of the Digestive Disease and Surgery Institute at Cleveland Clinic London. He is a member of Royal College of Surgeons of England, Association of Upper GI Surgeons, Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland.

Professor Nadey Hakim is a consultant general and transplant surgeon. He is a specialist in General Surgery who started the first Pancreas Transplant Programme in the south-east of England, and pioneered the finger-assisted nephrectomy technique for streamlining kidney transplants. Professor Hakim was the British Surgeon on the International team which performed the world's first successful arm transplant and was the first surgeon to be awarded the prestigious Max Thorek Professorship of Surgery. With over 200 peer-reviewed papers and more than 20 textbooks, he is also an author and international speaker. Professor Hakim gained his MD from Paris Descartes University (Distinguished Laureate of the Faculty of Medicine) and trained in surgery at Guy's Hospital. At the University of London, he obtained his PhD before completing a Gastrointestinal Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic and a Multiorgan Transplant Fellowship at the University of Minnesota. He is currently the Imperial College President's Envoy and Professor of Transplantation Surgery at London's Imperial College and Consultant Surgeon at the Cleveland Clinic London. Professor Hakim has been awarded honorary professorships from the universities of Lyon, Peru, Ankara, Belgrade and São Paulo, and has been a visiting professor to several universities including Harvard University and the Cleveland Clinic. Formerly World President of the International College of Surgeons and Vice President of the Royal Society of Medicine. He is also currently Vice President of the International Medical Sciences Academy, Vice President of the British Red Cross and Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.

Professor Sebastian Schoppmann is a full professor of surgery, and a general and visceral surgeon. He is the head of the working group for gastric and esophageal surgery at the Division of Visceral Surgery of the Department of General Surgery as well as the head of the Gastroesophageal Tumor Unit (CCC-GET) at the Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC) at the Medical University of Vienna and University Hospital of Vienna. He is an expert in minimally invasive techniques in visceral surgery with special interest in foregut diseases. Prof. Schoppmann is President of the Austrian Society for Minimally Invasive Surgery and Past President of the Austrian Society for Surgical Oncology (ACO-ASSO). He is a member of the Oncology Advisory Board of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection. At an international level, he is the founder and the Chairman of the Board of the European Foregut Society (EFS) and member of the Advisory Committee of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO). Prof. Schoppmann expertise in the field of foregut diseases has led to many peer-reviewed publications and books, combined with numerous worldwide lectures.

Professor Aleksandar P. Simić is a full professor of surgery and chair of the Department of surgery at the School of medicine University of Belgrade. He is also a Chief of the department and vice-chair at University hospital for digestive surgery, University clinical center of Serbia in Belgrade. Prof. Simić earned his medical degree at the School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, where he completed his surgical residency. As a recipient of the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus Annual Scholarship Award, he undertook a fellowship at the Department of Foregut Surgery, University of Southern California, where he gained further expertise with complex foregut problems and advanced minimally invasive laparoscopic and thoracoscopic procedures. His main field of interest are benign foregut diseases, with special emphasis on innovative endoscopic and minimally invasive surgical approaches to the GERD, hiatal hernia, Barrett's esophagus, and esophageal motility disorders. He is the Secretary General and founder of the European Foregut Society (EFS), and a honorary member of the Austrian Society for Minimally Invasive Surgery, Hungarian Surgical Society, Brazilian College of Surgery and Brazilian College of Digestive Surgery, as well as a member of the European Association of Endoscopic Surgery, Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus. His work with high activity in the field of surgical education has led to many peer-reviewed publications, several books and book chapters, numerous invited lectures worldwide, as well as prestigious domestic and international awards.

Dr Rehan Haidry is a consultant gastroenterologist and interventional endoscopist at Cleveland Clinic London where he is the clinical lead of endoscopy. His main areas of clinical & academic interest are minimally invasive endoscopic treatments for benign and malignant disorders of the foregut. He has highly specialist interests in Barrett's neoplasia, Squamous neoplasia, esophageal cancer and advanced interventional endoscopy for these conditions, with ablation and resection. He carries out minimally invasive treatments for acid reflux with Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication (TIF), as well as metabolic & bariatric endoscopic procedures such as Duodenal mucosal resurfacing (DMR), POSE and Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty (ESG). He is the leading expert on the endoscopic management of Zenker's Diverticulum in the UK and leads a research team out of Cleveland Clinic London. His research team are involved in several projects from Metabolic/ Bariatric endoscopy, endoscopic diagnosis with Artificial intelligence of lesion in the gastrointestinal tract to optimizing treatments for GERD and gastroparesis. He is a member of General Medical Council (GMC), British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG), American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), European Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) and European Foregut Society (EFS).



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Dr Rocío Temiño studied Medicine at the University of Navarra and trained as a Gastroenterologist in Madrid at the Fundación Alcorcón University Hospital. In 2008 she began her career as a specialist at the Mutua de Terrassa University Hospital. In 2016 she continued her professional career by joining the Teknon Medical Center of the Quiron Group, leaders in research and advanced endoscopy. There she began her specialization in gastroesophageal reflux and training in endoscopic anti-reflux techniques the MUSE (2018) and incisionless fundoplication or TIF technique (2020), currently being the only professional who develops this technique in Spain and being an international trainer of the same. Dr Temiño recognizes the importance of practicing integrative medicine, she also emphasizes the fundamental role of the microbiota for digestive diseases and health in general, and for this reason, in the last two years she has carried out intensive training courses in Microbiota and integrative medicine.

Associate Professor Ognjan M. Skrobić is general and visceral surgeon, currently a head of the Department for Foregut and Bariatric Surgery at the University Hospital for Digestive Surgery, University Clinical Center of Serbia. His areas of clinical and academic expertise include diagnostics, endoscopic and minimally invasive advanced techniques in the treatment of foregut diseases and bariatric surgery. He completed his surgical training in Belgrade School of Medicine University Hospitals and since then his education included fellowships in many renowned world centers in his field of interest, including Policlinico San Donato Milano, Lahey Hospital, Boston, USA, and Ponderas hospital, Bucharest, Romania. His scientific work includes many papers in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters in international and domestic publications. For his academic work he was awarded as coauthor for the best publication in 2010 by Journal of Gastrointestinal surgery and best abstract in EAES congress in Frankfurt 2017. Currently he is a member of educational and executive committee of European Foregut Society (EFS) and a general secretary of Serbian Surgical Society. He is also a member of International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus (ISDE), World Organization for Special Studies of Diseases of the Esophagus (OESO), and European Association for Endoscopic surgery (EAES).